

ABAC Meeting Minutes for April 9, 2007

Board members present were Jack Johnson, Stephan Miller, Ted Packard, Ron Sender, and Christopher Tonkin. Jeff Roth also attended.

The meeting was called to order at 7:33.

*The March minutes were approved with one amendment.

Review of recent events, including the National Bike Summit. Jack gave us a summary of his attendance of the Bike Summit in mid-March. The Summit is a meeting in Washington with representatives from all over the country. Those attending from Mass. distributed information on bicycling to the Mass. congressional delegation. There was support of a national bill that has been proposed to provide subsidies for bicycle commuting. The benefit would be tax-free, and businesses could deduct it.

Several delegates also met with the President. The Mass. bike delegation met with Senator Kerry. The Senator promised that he would talk with the Mayor of Boston to promote better cycling conditions in the City.

Continue planning discussion for the annual BIKE-Arlington Tour, scheduled for Sunday May 20. Jack, Billy, and Scott did a test ride of the proposed route for the Tour. The ride starts at the Jefferson-Cutter House and travels through four different towns. The ride parallels part of the proposed Alewife Bike Path. The ride will end at Spy Pond Park.

Ron was concerned about the safety of the Spy Pond Path, which is part of the tour. Jack answered that we may have to redefine part of the route and that we should have another dry run to nail down the final route. We decided to invite The Selectmen and Dan Driscoll of the Mass. Department of Conservation and Recreation. Christopher will coordinate the provision of refreshments at the park after the Tour.

Update on the Minuteman Bikeway brochure reprint. The brochures have been printed and delivered. The content is identical to the previous printing. The new brochures are available from the Planning Department in Town Hall.

Update on creating and installing new banners for the Minuteman Bikeway gateways in Arlington Center. Joey is talking with DPW regarding making new banners. Jack suggested there be information on the back of the banner such as the URL of the Bikeway web site.

Bikeway cleanup proposed for Saturday, May 5, with Starbucks; requested by Ron Sender. Ron attended a meeting at Starbucks which wants to sponsor this year's cleanup. They will provide water and (hopefully) volunteers. We will

coordinate with Starbucks' local stores. Ron, Stephan and Christopher will form a subcommittee to provide coordination. Ron also suggested the possibility of enlisting local high school students looking for community service credits.

Discussion and updates regarding plowing the Minuteman Bikeway in winter; requested by Jeff Roth. Also note recent correspondence received from Judith Lorei on the same topic. We discussed this topic at length again. The major issues include environmental concerns, promises to abutters, possible damage to the path, cost, and what equipment would be appropriate for the task. Ted suggested that equipment could be contracted rather than purchased. Jeff told us that the Lexington and Bedford committees are in favor of plowing the path.

Jack suggested that one of the major hurdles is the funding problem. Paolo Marinelli is canvassing the abutters in East Arlington to get their opinions about the possibility of plowing. We discussed whether to plow half or the whole width of the path. The committee as a whole is warming to the idea of plowing. We will set up a subcommittee to study the topic.

Open forum. We will be hosting the Tri-town Bicycle Committee meeting later this year. We decided that the meeting should be held on a weeknight rather than a weekend.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:44

*Denotes a vote was taken.

Minutes submitted by Stephan Miller.